

PUNCHED CONTROL MARKINGS on Schermack Type III Coils

by K.F. Lougee

I believe the best way to present this listing of the punched markings on Schermack Type III coils is to reprint in its entirety an article published in the April 1969 Perfins Bulletin, which is, in my opinion, the most informative article which has been presented.

There is one portion which needs clarification. While in 1969 the one and two-cent denominations were only known to have been punched, since that time two copies of the three-cent coil have been reported with the #37 pattern of the nine-hole solid type, and a single copy of the four-cent coil has been reported with the "0" pattern of the twelve-hole open square.

Following is text of the 1969 article:

In 1906 the government began issuing imperforate stamps in sheets of 400 to meet the demand of the manufacturers of vending and affixing machines. It is with the latter group that our attention is focused.

These companies punched and cut the imperforate sheets into coils so that they might be used in the machines which they manufactured.

The Schermack company, which later became, first, the Mail-o-meter company, and, later, the Mail-O-Meter company, was one such company. Mr. J.J. Schermack invented, developed and produced an electrically operated stamp affixing and envelope sealing machine, and by 1909 was perforating coils with two slots (or rectangular perforations) and supplying them in rolls of 3,000 at 50 cents over face value to owners of their affixing machines.

However, the Schermack company sold its interest in the business and the new company changed the name. The new company, after experimenting with some large round holes in an attempt to get the government to produce a special coil for them, dropped the idea when the Bureau declined to produce the special coil stamps. Meanwhile, the company continued to use the two-slot perforation and continued to do so for some 20 years. The standard stamp cataloguers labeled this type of perforation Schermack Type III, although after July 1909, the Mail-O-Meter company did the perforating.

What interests us as Perfin collectors is the fact that these coil stamps were also found with additional holes punched through the stamp itself. These additional perforations, while not arranged as initials, numerals, or designs, as we use the terms, in the Perfins Club catalog of perforated stamps, or the recently compiled illustrated work, ARE Perfins in a sense and consequently have a place in Perfin collections.

The "gadget" which made these perforations or control marks on the coil stamps was an extra piece of equipment added to the affixing machine. When the coil stamps were inserted into the affixing device there were no control markings on them. When the knife

blade severed the stamps being affixed on the cover, the same operation punched the control holes on the adjacent stamp.

Since the stamps were locked into the affixing machine and registers counted every stamp applied, there actually was no need for the control marking as a precaution against pilfering. But perforated identifications were very popular at that time, so the manufacturer met the demand.

The patent applications for this perforating gadget was filed October 9, 1909, by Mr. Bennett D. Straight, and was granted under #1127543 on February 9, 1915. Mr. Straight assigned the patent to the Mail-O-Meter company.

The Mail-O-Meter company experimented with at least two types of control markings, and then decided on a third type consisting of three horizontal lines of three holes each, the basic pattern being a nine-hole solid square. By eliminating one or more holes from the basic design, a large number of patterns could be used.

One of the experimental types was an upright diamond. A stamp with this perforation is hard to come by.

The second experimental type was a twelve-hole open square having four holes on each side.

(See illustrations, not to scale, below.)

The Mail-O-Meter company sold their affixing machines and the coil stamps to concerns who had a large subscription or advertising volume of mail.

So far as is known, only one and two-cent stamps were used. Scott's types A-138, A-139 and A-140 were the only imperforates used.

The number assigned to each control design is determined by the position of the eliminated hole or holes. A pattern with all nine or twelve holes present is listed as # "0". All determinations to be made with the stamp face up and head up, since this was the way the stamps were fed into the affixing machine before the perforating took place.

EXAMPLES

...	1 2 3	...	...
...	4 5 6	...	...
...	7 8 9	...	...
Read #0	#0	#48	#159

...	A B C D	...	...
...	E F	...	...
...	G H	...	...
...	I J K L	...	...
Read #0	#0	D	BK

If anyone has information concerning the items listed without illustration on the following pages, or further information concerning other items, listed or unlisted, it would be appreciated if they would communicate with me:


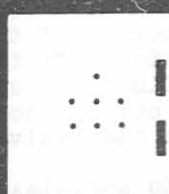
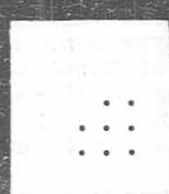

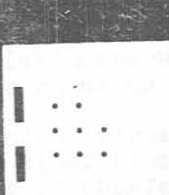









PUNCHED CONTROL MARKINGS ON SCHERMACK
TYPE III COILS.


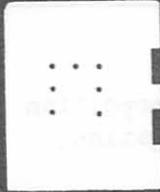
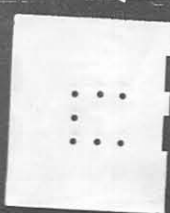





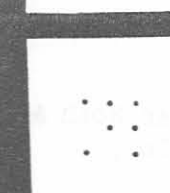

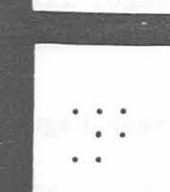
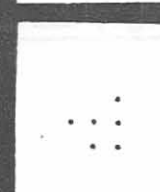

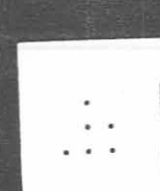
The following symbols have been used in connection with the items herein listed:

** Identification based on cover.

This item taken from a list by Mr. L. N. Littlefield, published in 1962;
source of original information not known to the writer.

NO SYMBOL: These listings taken from old notes, original sources not known.

MISSING CONTROL HOLES	SYMBOL USED BY	MISSING CONTROL HOLES	SYMBOL USED BY
	0 ** No name; Wall Street, New York NY		13 ** Cosmopolitan Magazine, New York NY
	1 ## Spencer Trask and Company, New York, NY.		14 ** Success Magazine New York NY
	3 ** Smith Gray & Co. New York NY		17
	4		19
	5		25 ** David Williams and Co., New York NY
	7		28 ** Tax Payers League, Detroit, Mich.
	9 ** Fidelity Phenix Ins. Co., Chicago, Ill/		36 ** C. A. Strelinge Company Detroit, Mich.







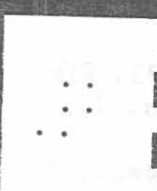


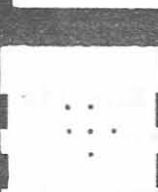



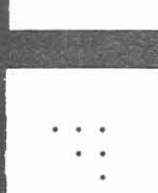


	MISSING CONTROL HOLES	SYMBOL USED BY		MISSING CONTROL HOLES	SYMBOL USED BY
	37	** Babson Bros., Chicaho, Ill		57	## E. F. Houghton and Co., NewYork NY
	39			58	
	45	## Hammacher Schlemmer Co., NewYork NY		68	
	46			69	** Nat'l. Fire Ins. Co., Chicago, Ill
	47	## Ohio Electric Co., Chicago, Ill		79	Third Nat'l. Bank, StLouis, Mo.
	48	** Kabo Corset Co., Chicago, Ill		124	** A. Saks, NewYork NY
	49			127	
	56	** Chalmers Motor Co., Detroit, Mich.		134	## Smith & Gray NewYork NY.

MISSING
CONTROL
HOLES

SYMBOL
USED
BY

MISSING
CONTROL
HOLES

SYMBOL
USED
BY

	136			258	
	137	** Cosmopolitan Magazine, NewYork NY.		349	
	139			367	
	149	## Detroit and Cleveland Navigation Co., Detroit, Mich.		378	## Babson Bros., Chicago, Ill.
	179			379	
	236	** Quaker Oats Company, Chicago, Ill.		468	## Meyer Roth & Co., Chicago, Ill.
	237			478	## Success Magazine New York, NY.
	246			579	
















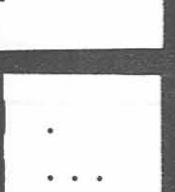
MISSING
CONTROL
HOLES





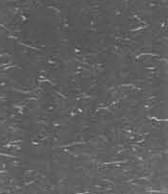


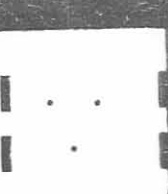


SYMBOL
USED
BY

MISSING
CONTROL
HOLES

SYMBOL
USED
BY

	678			1378	
	689	** Hill Publishing Company NewYork NY. (See note)		1379	
	1239			1469	
	1245	** Review of Reviews NewYork NY See note		1679	
	1249			2356	** The Osborne Co., NewYork, NY.
	1279			2458	
	1289			2468	
	1367			3467	

MISSING CONTROL HOLES	SYMBOL USED BY	MISSING CONTROL HOLES	SYMBOL USED BY
	4578 DeLaVal Separator Co.. NewYork, NY.		12469
	4589		12589
	4678 DeLaVal Separator Co New York NY		13467
	4679		** Julian Hawthorne Co Chicago, Ill
	5679		14678
	5689 ** John Wanamaker NewYork NY.		14689
	12358		14789
	12456 ## W. M. Crane Company NewYork NY		23456

MISSING CONTROL HOLES	SYMBOL USED BY	MISSING CONTROL HOLES	SYMBOL USED BY
	23578		34678 ## Babson Brothers Chicago, Ill
	24568		45679 ## Austin Nichols Co., NewYork NY
	24678		45689 ** U. T. Hungerford NewYork NY
	24679		245679
	25789		23456789 ** David Williams Co., NewYork, NY

Note.

In addition to the identifications of #689 and #1245 in the above list, the following may be added, based on reported covers.



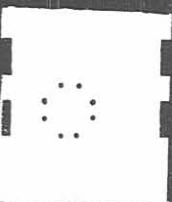






689

** Engineering and Mining Journal
** American Machine-Power
Both NewYork NY

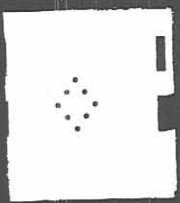
1245

** Good Humor
** Good Health
** McClures Magazine
** Box 43 Station D
All NewYork, NY.

TWELVE HOLE OPEN SQUARE.

MISSING CONTROL HOLES	SYMBOL USED BY	MISSING CONTROL HOLES	SYMBOL USED BY
	None		BCEFGH
	ADIL		BEFJ
	AF		CFGHJ
	AFK		CFGJ
	AGHL		CFK

EXPERIMENTAL

	Upright Diamond		
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